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Commission on the Status of Women

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Statement submitted by the International Union of Psychological Science, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.



Statement

The NGO Committee on the Family is committed to addressing family issues and policies and to playing a role in the advancement of families within the context of the United Nations system.

Strengthening the family, the basic unit of society, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women. Providing families and especially women with the necessary financial opportunities and resources is an important step in empowering women to achieve equal status with men in the family and to decrease discrimination and violence against women.

We recommend that:

- Goals of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action should be implemented with consideration of the family.
- Families should receive comprehensive protection and support from member states in creating environments of gender equality for girls and women, which will promote educational and economic achievements.
- Innovative funding sources, constructive policy initiatives, and new partnerships that specifically target families should be developed between civil society, industry and member states.
- Women should play an instrumental role in all policy development and decision-making, especially as it affects their economic lives.
- The Commission on the Status of Women should support an increase in the allocation of funding from member states and from organizations that promote the development of businesses for women. This can make it possible for women to gain independence and self-esteem, and to serve as role models in their families.
- Women should receive training and support in learning how to budget for family needs such as food, health care, and education.
- Investment in research-based “best practices”, such as UNIFEM’s micro-credit financing programs, should be enhanced. Such programs have measurably improved women’s economic self-sufficiency, which supports their families and their greater communities.
- Member states should improve gender-responsive budget allocations and tracking methods for more effective financial accountability, and funding should specifically be allocated to programs that support women and families.
- It should be recognized that the strengthening of women in families is an important pathway by which economic independence and equality for women can be achieved in society.

Note: Statement endorsed by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Child Welfare League of America, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics and World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations